for its revival. The restructuring package includes waiver of outstanding loans, providing of government guarantees for reducing manpower and for operation and divestment of non-core/non-viable activities.

Shifting of the headquarter of BALCO to KORBA

† 892. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new management of Bharat Alum in im urn Company (BALCO) has taken permission from Government to shift its Headquarter to Korba in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, by when and if not, whether it is a violation of agreement reached with shareholders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Follow-up action on the report of Expert Committee on Steel

893. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any follow-up action has been taken on the report of Expert Committee constituted in the year 1977 for drafting export strategy for Indian Steel Industry;

(b) if so, the details of the follow-up action and the results thereof; and

(c) whether there will be a great scope in the East-West and South-East Asia in this regard after implementation of some of recommendations of this group as soon as the recession period comes to an end in these areas?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) An Expert Committee, headed by Dr. Nitish Sengupta, was set up on export strategy for Indian Steel Industry. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in 1997 on the basis of which government took necessary follow up action which *inter-alia* included:

(i) A Steel Exporters Forum (SEF) has been set up for promoting export of Iron & Steel and to resolve common problems being faced by all Iron & Steel exporters in the country. The SEF has representatives from the major steel producers associations and Central Government Ministries such as Steel, Finance, Surface Transport, Railways & Commerce.

(ii) An Empowered Committee has been constituted to approve specific research projects and to provide overall direction to the total research efforts on Iron & Steel in the country.

(iii) The Ministry of Steel has recommended for higher allocation of funds for development of ports & infrastructural facilities to facilitate exports of Iron & Steel.

(iv) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for exports of specific iron and steel items have rationalized.

(c) Till the recent financial crisis the South East Asian countries have been the largest importer of steel from India. However, after the Asian crisis, the region got transformed into a net exporter of steel. With the resurgence of these economies, the exports of Iron & Steel to these countries from India may increase.

Modernisation of IISCO

† 894. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Company is pending with Government for a long time;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.